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Renditions

RELEASED IN FULL

- **All governments have a responsibility to protect their citizens from harm.** The United States works cooperatively with countries around the world to achieve this objective.
- In carrying out that responsibility, the United States sometimes captures, detains and questions enemy combatants engaged in terrorism, to gather potentially significant, life-saving intelligence. This is lawful under the customary law of war.
 - **The questioning is conducted within U.S. law and treaty obligations, without using torture.**
 - **Our law enforcement and intelligence cooperation has helped foil a number of deadly plots against cities and citizens in Europe and elsewhere.**
- **We are working closely with allies and partners in Europe and globally to protect our citizens against vicious terrorists. Sometimes, in this process, we deliver – or “render” - detainees to other governments.**
- Renditions may be carried out lawfully for many reasons, including to remove persons who attempt unlawfully to enter the U.S., to help other governments bring fugitive criminals to judicial process, to keep dangerous terrorists off the streets, or for intelligence purposes.
- **Former CIA Director Tenet has acknowledged publicly that the U.S. carried out dozens of renditions of terrorists before the beginning of the Global War on Terror.**
- **Other governments also conduct renditions.**
 - **Ramzi Youssef, who masterminded the World Trade Center bombing of 1993, was delivered to the U.S. by rendition once he was tracked down. He is now serving a life sentence.**

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- **U.S. policy is not to transfer a person to a country if we believe that it is more likely than not that the person will be tortured or, in appropriate cases, that the person has a well-founded fear of persecution and would not be disqualified from persecution protection on criminal or security-related grounds.**
 - **The United States does not transport detainees from one country to another for the purpose of interrogation by torture.**
 - **The U.S. has not used the airspace or airports of any country for the purpose of transporting a detainee to a country where he will be tortured.**
 - **Where appropriate, in carrying out these renditions, the United States gets assurances that transferred persons will not be tortured before transferring the detainees.**
- **In conducting renditions, this administration has respected and will continue to respect the sovereignty of other countries.**
- **We will not confirm or deny specific intelligence activities; we cannot discuss information that could compromise the success of intelligence, law enforcement, and military operations.**

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